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# BULLETIN

## *of the Children's Book Center*

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY • CHILDREN'S BOOK CENTER

Volume IX

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Number 6

### EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

R Recommended

M Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it barely misses an NR rating. The book should be given careful consideration before purchase.

NR Not recommended.

Ad For collections that need additional material on the subject.

SpC Subject matter or treatment will tend to limit the book to specialized collections.

SpR A book that will have appeal for the unusual reader only. Recommended for the special few who will read it.

### *New Titles*

#### *for Children and Young People*

NR Arbuckle, Dorothy Fry. The After-Harvest Festival; The Story of a Girl of the Old Kankakee; illus. by Maurice Whitman. Dodd, 1955. 248p. \$2.75.

Twelve-year-old Paris LaCroix lived with her parents in the forest near a small Indiana settlement on the Kankakee River in 1863. Her father was a fur trapper and guide but he was a better educated man than the usual run of trappers, and the LaCroix home compared favorably with the homes of some of the well-established citizens of the near-by town. The story centers around Paris's desire to attend the annual After-Harvest Festival, held each September in the settlement. There are some interesting aspects to the setting, but the author is so intent on getting into the book every detail she has ever known about life at this period, most of it by way of unnatural conversations among the various characters, that the thread of the story is frequently lost and the writing becomes dull and uninteresting.

R Ardizzone, Edward. Little Tim and the

1-2 Brave Sea Captain. Oxford, 1955. 48p. \$2.50.

A new edition of the well-loved saga of Little Tim and his first experience at sea. The book is smaller in size than the earlier edition (10 1/4 x 7 3/4). The illustrations have been completely re-drawn, and the text is printed in regular type rather than script. Some brief additions have been made to the text, although the basic plot has not been changed. The style is still too difficult for individual reading below a fourth grade reading level, but the story is exceptionally well-suited to reading aloud to young children.

Ad Batchelor, Julie Forsyth. Tim and the Purple Whistle; illus. by William M. Hutchinson. Harcourt, 1955. 60p. \$2.25.

Ten-year-old Tim Allen's father gave him a purple whistle to blow whenever he became very frightened. Tim was inclined to be timid and, when he set forth as an assistant to Josh Walker, a peddler, was certain he would need the whistle many times. His experiences as he traveled over the Connecticut country and learned to rely on his own resources rather than the whistle for courage give an interesting picture of life in

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1790, although there is not a great deal of originality to the plot or the characterizations.

SpC Bemelmans, Ludwig. Parsley. Harper, K-3 1955. 47p. \$3.50.

A reprint from Woman's Day. The stag, Parsley, lives in the high mountains where he stands guard over his herd, and shelters under a friendly pine tree. One day a hunter almost shoots Parsley but is tripped by the tree and thrown to his death in the valley below. His binoculars remain hanging on a limb of the tree and Parsley thereafter uses them to watch for approaching hunters. The book has some of Bemelmans' loveliest art work, and for this reason could be of value for art collections. The story is adult rather than childlike, and the valuing of animal above human life makes it questionable even from an adult point of view.

M Berquist, Grace. Farm Girl; pictures by Janet Smalley. Abingdon, 1955. 48p. \$1.50.

Rather pedestrian story of a small girl living in the country who persuades her father that the family should own some animals and that she will help to care for them. The style is easy enough for many second grade readers to handle alone.

R Bromhall, Winifred. The Princess and the Woodcutter's Daughter. Knopf. 1955. 36p. \$2.

Delightful story of a lonely young princess who runs away from the castle one day and makes friends with a woodcutter's daughter. Although the princess must return home at the end of the day, she is allowed to continue her newly found friendship. Bromhall's typical chubby-cheeked, light-hearted children give added charm to the story, which is especially suited to reading aloud to young children.

SpC Burnett, Frances (Hodgson). Little Lord Fauntleroy; illus. by Reginald Birch. Scribner, 1955. 252p. \$2.50.

A new edition of a one-time favorite in children's literature. The excessively sentimental style and class consciousness of the writing are as out-moded today as are the curls and velvet suit of Cedric, and have as little to offer modern children. For libraries wanting to build historical collections of children's books, for adult use, this will make an attractive edition to have.

M Carr, Harriett H. Borghild of Brooklyn. 7-9 Ariel, 1955. 243p. \$2.75. (Inter-cultural understanding).

The story of a fifteen-year-old Norwegian girl's adjustment to life in this country. Borghild came to New York ahead of her parents,

and spent her first year living with some wealthy relatives in Manhattan. She soon found herself torn between the aunt with whom she was staying and another aunt who lived in Brooklyn, where she and her husband owned a small delicatessen shop. The story is based on the struggle between foreigners who want to give up all of their old ways in favor of completely new, "American" ways, and those who want to adopt some American ways, but at the same time keep what still seems good of the old ways. Borghild was able to reconcile the two families so that each was able to understand and accept the ideas of the other. The basis for the intensity of the rivalry between the two aunts is never made very clear, and the ensuing reconciliation is accomplished much too speedily and too completely to be wholly realistic.

NR Carroll, Lewis. Alice in Wonderland; 4-6 illus. by Marjorie Torrey. Random House, 1955. 64p. \$2.95.

An emasculated version that contains the bare bones of the action from the original story, but lacks the wonderful touches that have made this story a true classic. The fact that Alice is more likely to be appreciated by adults than by children is no excuse for thus mutilating Carroll's work and reducing it to a story that has little to offer by way of appeal or humor.

R Colby, Carroll Burleigh. Earthmovers; 5-7 Giant Machines that Are Changing the Face of the Earth. Coward-McCann, 1955. 48p. \$1.25.

Brief text and photographs depict the various types of machines that are used for moving earth, plus a few related machines used in road building. Many of the machines are also included in the Otto, Tractor Book (Morrow, 1953).

M Collin, Hedvig. Young Hans Christian Andersen. 6-8 Viking, 1955. 216p. \$2.75. A biography of Hans Christian Andersen in which the emphasis is on his early years. The author writes vividly of the town in which Andersen lived, but is less successful in her portrayal of the boy himself. She has exaggerated his strangeness and his highly developed powers of imagination in a way that makes him seem always considerably younger than his years and abnormal to the point of being a serious mental case. In the latter part of the book, in which she deals with his later years, the characterization becomes less exaggerated and more believable. His adult life is summed up in the final chapter.

NR Daugherty, Charles Michael. Where the 7-9 Condor Nests. Viking, 1955. 192p. \$2.50.

A story of a search for lost Incan treasure in the Andes. Peter Winkler arrived in Peru, where he was to meet General de Armas, a friend of his father's who was to help him in his career as a commercial photographer, only to find that the man had died a short time before. Peter was offered a job helping to settle the General's estate, and through it became involved with a supposed archeologist who was known, by Peter, to have stolen some papers from the de Armas estate. Peter joined forces with the archeologist to try to find out what he was up to, and also because the expedition promised an opportunity for Peter to get some rare pictures of a condor's nest. Peter obtained the pictures, in spite of two attempts by the archeologists to murder him, and then left the expedition to its fruitless search for treasure. The characters and situations are highly contrived and the ending is quite flat.

R DeJong, Meindert. The Little Cow and the Turtle; pictures by Maurice Sendak. Harper, 1955. 178p. \$2.50.

A delightful tale of a little white cow who has individuality and personality (but is not personified). The little cow is the only beef cow in a herd of milch cows, and she has no desire to follow the example of the rest of the herd and settle down to a life of eating grass, chewing a cud, and producing milk. Instead she wanders around the countryside, making friends and keeping up with all the interesting happenings. Her encounters with three hoboes, fifty children on bicycles, and a large mud turtle, range, in the telling, from the very funny to the tensely exciting. The book is perhaps better suited to reading aloud to individual children or to groups of children (and, or adults) than for solitary reading, for it has the kind of humor that demands to be shared. An excellent book for family use, since there is much here to appeal to all ages.

M Eberle, Irmengarde. Evie and the Wonderful Kangaroo; illus. by Louis Slobodkin. Knopf, 1955. 129p. \$2.50.

Evie Dell is a frequently careless, rather untidy little girl whose pet kangaroo, Cookie, is exceedingly neat and tidy. In a series of mildly amusing episodes, Cookie teaches Evie some of her own neatness, and then as a climax saves the family's vacation from an unhappy ending. A mixture of fantasy and realism that never quite comes off.

R Eichenberg, Fritz. Dancing in the Moon; K-2 Counting Rhymes. Harcourt, 1955. 25p. \$2.25.

In somewhat the same vein of art and humor as his Ape in a Cape, the author has created

a counting book compounded of amusing animals in ridiculous poses. From one to twenty the reader follows such antics as "1 racoon dancing in the moon"; "5 dragons pulling wagons"; "10 cats trying on hats"; and "20 fishes juggling dishes". Although somewhat sophisticated at times, there is much in the humor to appeal to children.

Ad Eifert, Virginia S. The Buffalo Trace; 7-9 illus. by Manning de V. Lee. Dodd, 1955. 193p. \$3.00.

A highly fictionalized story of the part played by Abraham Lincoln's grandparents in the settlement of Kentucky. The story begins in 1780 when Lincoln's grandfather, also named Abraham, first met Daniel Boone and became interested in the thriving settlements in Kentucky, and continues to 1810 when Lincoln himself was eighteen months old. The writing is of average quality, but the setting is interesting and the book will be of use where there is need for additional material on the period. No sources for the historical background are given.

Ad English, James W. Tailbone Patrol; 5-7 illus. by Peter Wells. Holiday House, 1955. 186p. \$2.75.

An episodic story of the activities of the Tailbone Patrol, part of a Boy Scout Troup in Phoenix, Arizona. The episodes, which range from an overnight hike to a disastrous attempt at baby-sitting, are told by Mike Peterson, Patrol Leader, and employ the slap-stick type of humor characteristic of many scouting stories.

Ad Epstein, Samuel and Beryl. The First Book of Glass; pictures by Bette Davis. Watts, 1955. 65p. \$1.95.

A brief history of glass making from very early to modern times. The importance of glass in the progress of civilization and its use both as an object of ornamentation and for more practical purposes are discussed. The illustrations, showing the tools and some of the processes of glass making are of as much, or greater, value as the text, although in one sequence, showing the making of a pitcher, the illustrations do not match the accompanying text. Not as detailed an account or as attractive a book as Diamond's The Story of Glass (Harcourt, 1953), but written at a somewhat lower level of reading difficulty.

R Farjeon, Eleanor and Herbert. Kings and Queens; with 41 coloured plates by Rosalind Thornycroft. Lippincott, 1955. 87p. \$3.

Two sections have been added to this new edition. A new drawing and a verse about George VI have

been substituted for the drawing and one-stanza verse of the earlier edition. A picture of Elizabeth II, with the usual, non-committal, one-stanza verse for the currently reigning monarch, has been added, bringing the pictorial history of England's monarchs up to date.

M Flood, Richard T. Penalty Shot; illus. 6-8 by Robert Candy. Houghton, 1955. 180p. \$2.50.

Another story of ice hockey at Radford Academy. This time the action centers around Pete Merrill, President of the Student Council and would-be hockey player, and "Porky" Thatcher, hockey star whose happy-go-lucky ways get him in trouble when he cribs on an exam. Pete is the one who sees and must report "Porky", and is also the one who takes his place on the hockey team. Both boys come through in fine style—Pete wins the crucial game after Porky has coached him in the fine points of playing Porky's own position as goalie. There is less hockey and somewhat more moralizing to the story than in the earlier books about Radford Academy, and the story moves rather slowly. The characters and situations are too pat to be wholly convincing. The illustrations detract rather than adding to the appeal of the book since the boys never look the same age in any two pictures and they have no individuality in the pictures.

R Garst, Doris Shannon. John Jewitt's Adventure; illus. by Donald McKay. 7-9 Houghton, 1955. 211p. \$2.75.

Fictionalized account of a real episode in the life of John Jewitt, based on his journal which was published in 1807. The story tells of Jewitt's experiences as armorer aboard the sailing ship, Boston; of the murder of the ship's crew by a tribe of Indians on the Pacific Northwest Coast, and of the three years which Jewitt spent as a captive of that same tribe. An exciting, if occasionally improbable, adventure story with the added appeal of a basis of reality.

NR Hall, Marjory. Star Island Again. Funk 7-9 & Wagnalls, 1955. 224p. \$2.75.

In this sequel to Star Island, Carolyn Winthrop is once again facing a summer at the girls' camp on Star Island. This time, however, she is there as Head Counselor and part-owner, and her fiancé, Ken Bryant, is also on hand to brighten her life. The summer brings many new problems, most of them caused by Carolyn's own personality, for she emerges here as a thoroughly selfish, self-centered, stubborn person who never thinks of anyone except herself and who has no understanding and little sympathy for the children who attend

the camp, or for the other counselors. Although her companions overlook her faults and keep patting her on the back and telling her what a fine person she is, hers is not a personality to be offered to teen-age girls as one they might emulate, and she does not improve as the summer or the book progress.

Ad Hoff, Carol. Wilderness Pioneer; Stephen 5-7 F. Austin of Texas; illus. by Robert Todd. Follett, 1955. 192p. \$3.50.

A readable, albeit somewhat glamorized biography of Stephen F. Austin, that gives an interesting picture of the early days of the settlement and fight for independence in Texas. The main facts of Austin's life are accurate, but his personality and his difficulties in working with others are not always presented in the same light as in other, adult biographies. The illustrations are of a pretty rather than a realistic nature.

NR Hogan, Inez. Koala Bear Twins. Dutton, 1-3 1955. 48p. \$1.50.

A story of twin koala bears beginning with the time when they are first old enough to leave their mother's pouch. Their mother tells them what to eat, identifies some of the animals that live in or near their tree, and warns them of dangers that may come their way. Life moves peacefully along until one day when they disobey their mother and climb out of the tree where they are almost caught by a dingo. They manage to escape and are careful to stay off the ground after that. The animals are so personified as to lose all reality. The writing is pedestrian and the illustrations are without artistic quality.

R Hogben, Lancelot Thomas. The Wonderful World of Mathematics; art by Andre, Charles Keeping, Kenneth Symonds; maps by Marjorie Saynor. 7-12 Garden City Books, 1955. 69p. \$2.95.

A well-written, very readable history of mathematics for junior and senior high school students. Beginning with early man, the author traces the development of mathematical concepts to modern times, giving a general overview rather than specific details of the use of mathematics in present-day life. The book is generously illustrated with pictures that have instructional as well as decorative value. A useful book for supplementary reading wherever there is an interest in the history of mathematics as a science.

Ad Kaufmann, Helen L. The Story of Mozart; 3-5 illus. by Eric M. Simon. Grosset, 1955. 179p. (Signature Books) \$1.50.

Emphasis on the events of childhood does not

seem out of place in a biography such as this one of Mozart, since his fame began in childhood and continued to the time of his early death at thirty-five. The writing is not inspired, but it does give some idea of the composer's personality as well as of his better known musical exploits.

R Kay, Helen. Snow Birthday; illus. by 2-4 Barbara Cooney. Ariel, 1955. 48p. \$2.50.

Young Stephen wished hard for snow on his birthday although he knew that snow that early in December was not very usual for his part of the country. Then when his wish came true—it was too true, for the snow became a blizzard that almost ruined his day. Some newly made friends, a father and daughter who were forced to abandon their car during the storm and spend the night at Stephen's home, came to the rescue the next day with a sleigh they hired to bring the birthday guests to the party. A pleasant story for reading aloud.

R Knight, Ruth Adams (Yingling). First the 8-10 Lightning. Doubleday, 1955. 224p. \$2.75.

A story of post-war Italy and of a young boy's efforts to save his family from starvation. Giovanni and his mother, Maria, had been sure that their American friend, Joe Oakes, would send for them after the war as he had promised. But as the years passed and Joe's letters made only vague references to the future, Giovanni decided his mother was being given the brush-off and that it was up to him to care for her. What neither of them knew was that Joe was in the hospital, facing the possibility of never walking again. In his effort to find work, Giovanni became involved with one of the numerous street gangs that had sprung up in Italy, but he eventually broke with the gang and returned to legitimate types of work. Eventually Joe and Maria were reunited, but when the time came, Giovanni decided to remain in Italy and help the country recover from the effects of war rather than joining his mother in America. A powerfully written story, vividly portraying the problems faced by many young people in post-war Europe.

R Lattimore, Eleanor Frances. Willow Tree 3-5 Village. Morrow, 1955. 128p. \$2.75. Mimosa, only child of the rich merchant Mr. Huang, was dissatisfied with her life because she had no one with whom to play. Her nurse told fascinating tales of life in her home village and of her two children, Sunflower and Plum. Even after Sunflower came from Willow Tree Village to live with the Huangs, Mimosa was not completely satisfied. One day she slipped

away from home to do some shopping, became lost, and eventually ended up in Willow Tree Village at her nurse's home. When her father found her he was angry at first, but then he relented, agreed to let Plum join his mother and sister at the Huang's home, and arranged for the three children to spend one month a year at Willow Tree Village. The simply told story pictures a China of several generations back, but the story itself will have a universal appeal apart from its setting.

R Lewellen, John Bryan. Helicopters: How 5-9 They Work; illus. by A. W. Revell. Crowell, 1955. 136p. \$2.

A readable, clear explanation of how helicopters work and of their possibilities for future use. Beginning with an account of his own first helicopter flight over Chicago, the author then describes in detail some of the present day types and the work they do. The final chapter predicts changes in helicopter styles and services for the future.

NR Macdonald, Zillah Katherine and Johnston, 7-9 Josie. Rosemary Wins Her Cap. Messner, 1955. 192p. \$2.75.

A misleading title in that Rosemary is no more than a very minor character, and the story is really about Corinne (A Cap for Corinne), her husband Dr. John Burnette, and Petey, the small boy the Burnettes are planning to adopt. When Petey becomes ill with polio, Corinne gives up her plan to go with her husband to South America and stays instead at Meadowlands Hospital. During the time that Dr. John is away, Corinne helps nurse Petey and prevents the theft of Dr. John's secret research papers. In addition to the melodramatic plot and typed characterizations and situations, the story is too dependent on a knowledge of the previous book. (Rosemary emerges from obscurity long enough to receive her cap and, to this extent, justify the book's title.)

NR McGovern, Ann. Roy Rogers and the 5-1 Mountain Lion; pictures by Mel Crawford. Simon & Schuster, 1955. 28p. (A Little Golden Book). 25¢.

Roy Rogers comes to the rescue of his young friend, Pete, and of Pete's horse, Winner, when the horse is lost and is attacked by a mountain lion. Of comic book caliber.

M Malvern, Gladys. Mamzelle; A Romance 7-9 for Teen-Age Girls Set in the Days of Dolly Madison. Macrae, 1955. 208p. \$2.75.

A light romance from the days of Dolly Madison and the burning of Washington during the War of 1812. Young Jeanne Siousat was sent to

Washington from her Louisiana home because her father thought their plantation was in danger of being invaded by the British. In Washington she discovered that the uncle with whom she was to stay was a trusted servant in the President's household. Jeanne, herself, was taken under Dolly Madison's protection and soon found herself virtually a member of the President's family. The story is primarily concerned with her romance, first with a disguised British spy and then with a true American. The author's liberties with historical events and personalities keep this from being acceptable historical fiction and it carries no great weight as a romance.

R Manton, Jo. The Story of Albert Schweitzer; illus. by Astrid Walford. Abelard-Schuman, 1955. 223p. \$2.75.

The life of Albert Schweitzer, told simply but with great warmth so that he comes alive for the reader as a real personality. Full attention is given to each phase of his life—as a child, as a musician, as a minister, and as a missionary doctor. A short bibliography of books by and about Schweitzer is included; most of the titles are too mature for the age reader who will be interested in this book.

NR Monsarrat, Nicholas, ed. The Boys' Book of the Sea; with 15 illus. by James Holland. Whittlesey House, 1955. 196p. \$2.95.

A collection of twenty-one stories of the sea, all but one of them taken from longer books. Some of the selections are complete episodes; others are merely parts of episodes and frequently leave the reader suspended in mid-sea, as it were. In spite of the title, the stories are more suited to older readers than to young boys. In all instances the original works are much to be preferred.

NR Morriss, Frank. Boy of Philadelphia; 5-7 A Story About the Continental Congress. Bruce, 1955. 133p. (Catholic Treasury Books). \$2.

A poorly written, implausible story of a young Catholic boy's part in the American Revolution. The boy, thirteen-year-old Tom Brown, is hired as a secretary and messenger boy by Benjamin Franklin and, with him, attends the meetings of the Continental Congress during the time of the drafting of the Declaration of Independence. Tom is captured by the British who try to make him reveal the names of the Congressional members who favor independence, escapes, and returns to Philadelphia in time to warn the members of a plot to capture them. Later he goes with Franklin to France where he joins John Paul Jones and helps him win his famous sea battles.

M Nielsen, Jean. Green Eyes; decorations by 7-9 Mimi Korach. Funk & Wagnalls, 1955. 250p. \$2.75.

Jan Morgan won the coveted job of editor of the high school newspaper, Argus, in spite of the opposition of some of the faculty members who thought her too immature to handle the work and the people involved. Much of Jan's personality difficulty stemmed from her unhappiness at home where she was embittered by jealousy of her younger brother, Andrew, and of her mother's obvious partiality to him. That the partiality arose, in part, from the fact that Andy had been seriously ill with rheumatic fever did not occur to Jan until she began to have contacts with persons outside her home who enabled her to look more objectively at herself and her family. The author has touched on some very real and serious problems in family relations in the story, but she has introduced too many elements to be able to deal with any one as fully as might be expected, and her solutions are somewhat too pat to be wholly realistic.

Ad O'Connor, Patrick. The Watermelon 7-9 Mystery. Washburn, 1955. 181p. \$2.50.

A suspenseful, though rather pat, mystery story involving opium smugglers, murder, and newspaper men in the San Francisco Bay area. Sixteen-year-old Mike Reading, a newsboy, planned to follow in the career of his father, a reporter who had disappeared while on a story involving the San Francisco waterfront. With the help of a retired sea captain, a reporter friend, and an Irish cop, Mike proceeds to break up an opium ring and solve the mystery of his father's death. There is little originality to the characterization, but the setting is well drawn and the plot moves swiftly and logically.

M Pace, Mildren Mastin. Old Bones; The 5-7 Wonder Horse; illus. by Wesley Dennis. Whittlesey House, 1955. 123p. \$2.95.

Authentic, but very uninspired story of Exterminator, one of the greatest of all race horses. The story reads almost like one of Alger's books, with Old Bones, as the horse was derisively and then affectionately called, beginning his career as a work horse and achieving fame to the amazement of everyone except his trainer, Henry McDaniel, and one stable boy. The horse was undoubtedly exceptional in temperament and ability, but the author has come so close to personifying him as to make him seem not quite real.

R Plotz, Helen, comp. Imagination's 7-12 Other Place; Poems of Science and



Mathematics; illus. with wood engravings by Clare Leighton. Crowell, 1955. 200p. \$3.50.

Selections taken, for the most part, from the works of the world's great poets, and expressing their interpretations of phenomena of science and nature. The results may not be good science, but they are interesting as examples of the layman's attempt at understanding science. The book could be used in both science and literature classes, and will also be a valuable addition to general poetry collections. Clare Leighton's illustrations help to make this a distinguished piece of book making.

NR Reeder, Russell P. West Point Plebe; 7-9 with frontispiece by Charles J. Andres. Little, 1955. 246p. \$3.

A run-of-the-mill story of West Point, with stock characters and situations. Clint Lane, the hero, is well-meaning but not always very bright, and his experiences range from the usual hazing by upper-classmen (which, although exceedingly adolescent is supposed to help mature the plebes) to the final Recognition Ceremony at the end of the year.

R Russell, Betty. Big Store, Funny Door; 1-2 pictures by Mary Gehr. Whitman, 1955. 33p. \$1.25.

An easy reading story for community life units at the primary level. The simple story tells of Dot and her younger brother, Ted, who go shopping for their mother at the nearby supermarket. While Dot buys the groceries, Ted stays at the door to try to figure out what makes it open and close automatically. A slight bit of suspense is added by having the children participate in a drawing for prizes, one of which they win. The text is written at a first grade reading level and the book will prove a satisfactory supplement to the regular basal readers.

Ad Scholz, Jackson Volney. Base Burglar. 7-9 Morrow, 1955. 221p. \$2.75.

All that Cliff Connor had to recommend him as a baseball player was a pair of speedy legs and an intense love for the game. When he tried to interest the Rangers' scout in his possibilities, he was not only turned down but succeeded in thoroughly antagonizing the scout. Nothing daunted, Cliff turned up at the Rangers' training camp the following spring, uninvited and proceeded to persuade the coaches to give him a chance. He won his chance and was sent to a Class B team that was at the bottom of its league. There Cliff and two friends he had met at training camp helped to bring the team out of its slump and to interest the local fans in giving it more support. Cliff himself developed

into a good player although he first had to learn the difference between confidence based on real ability and cockiness. Not outstanding, but acceptable baseball fare, with good game descriptions.

M Smith, Geraldine Foster. Little Dog 3-4 Sniff and the Twins; illus. by Robert Henneberger. Dutton, 1955. 86p. \$2.50.

A slight, rather pedestrian story of twin boys and their dog, Sniff. The dog, a Scotty, was found at the town garage where someone had left him. He was given to the twins, who had to learn the problems of responsibility that go along with the pleasure of owning a pet.

M Snedeker, Caroline Dale (Parke). A 4-6 Triumph for Flavius; illus. by Cedric Rogers. Lothrop, 1955. 87p. \$3.

Ten-year-old Flavius, aristocratic Roman boy, is given a Greek slave to carry his schoolbooks and take care of his person. The slave is proud and aloof until he realizes that Flavius is really a kind, albeit snobbish, lad. The interesting background can not quite compensate for the awkward writing and unattractive, statue-like illustrations.

R Tripp, Edward. The New Tuba; illus. 4-5 by Veronica Reed. Oxford, 1955. 104p. \$2.50.

A mildly amusing tale of a small Mexican boy, his Chihuahua dog, and the new tuba that his father played in the village band. The entire village had contributed to the cost of the tuba and young Paco was proud that his father was to play it and that he would be allowed to hold the music for his father. The excitement of anticipation as the people awaited the arrival of the new instrument and the near-disgrace that Paco's dog, Paquito, caused at the first concert make entertaining reading and give a sympathetic picture of life in a small Mexican village.

R Varble, Rachel (McBrayer). Pepys' Boy; 8-12 by Kurt Werth. Doubleday, 1955. 253p. \$2.75.

Seventeenth century England comes vividly alive in this wholly fictionalized account of the life and activities of "the boy" who is so frequently and so despairingly mentioned in Samuel Pepys' Diary. Although Toby Wayne-man is only nine-years-old when the story opens, both the style of writing and the events of the story are designed for older readers. As Toby is followed from the unhappy country home, where he lived in constant battle with his step-mother and two step-brothers, to London, where his stubborn independence and

love of fun brought him frequent beatings and misunderstandings, the reader sees not only Toby, but London also come alive in all the splendor and grimness of the period. High school students who are meeting sections from Pepys' Diary for the first time will find the book interesting as corollary reading; and for readers who have enjoyed Harnett's Drawbridge Gate (Putnam, 1954) the book could be used as a stepping stone to the more mature Mudlark (Bonnet. Doubleday, 1949).

NR Waldschmidt, Jean. Mystery of the Old  
5-7 Thorndyke. Nelson, 1955. 189p. \$2.50.  
Professor Wilkinson of Midwestern University plans to record the furnishings of an historic house in Carson City. Just as he is packing to leave his home, he breaks his leg and his two young sons are sent to Carson City in his place. The boys are side-tracked from their mission to work on a long unsolved mystery of disappearing men and hidden treasure. They solve the mystery and also manage to take the necessary photographs of the house by constantly interfering where they admit they do not belong. Told in the first person by the older boy. The plot and writing are mediocre.

M Wellman, Manly Wade. Flag on the Levee;  
7-9 illus. by William Ferguson. Washburn,  
1955. 209p. \$2.75.

A story of New Orleans in the period just before Louisiana was admitted to the Union as a separate state. Not only was statehood a major issue in 1811, but the people of New Orleans were also concerned over the strained relations between the United States and Spain and England. Young Ben Parker, who had come to New Orleans from his North Carolina home, found ample excitement in his new life as he made friends with a Creole family, fought a duel, and joined with Jean Lafitte in thwarting a Spanish plot. The period setting is interesting, the writing is just average.

Ad Werner, Jane. Smokey the Bear; pictures  
3-5 by Richard Scarry. Simon & Schuster,  
1955. 28p.. (A Little Golden Book).  
25¢.

A fire-prevention book for young children. Simple text and rather coy pictures tell the story of Smokey, the bear cub who almost lost his life in a forest fire and who is now used as a symbol for forest fire prevention. At the

end of the book the child is given a list of safety rules to follow and to remind parents and friends to follow. The book will need to be read aloud to primary grade children, and the coy tone will limit its appeal for older children who would be able to handle the text alone.

R Yates, Elizabeth. Prudence Crandall,  
7-10 Woman of Courage; illus. by Nora S.  
Unwin. Aladdin, 1955. 246p. \$3.

A thoughtful, mature, beautifully written story of Prudence Crandall's fight against racial discrimination in 1833. When the people of Canterbury objected to Miss Crandall's acceptance of a Negro student in her "Academy for Young Ladies", she decided to close her school to white girls and accept only Negro students. There followed a struggle that remains as a blot in Canterbury's history, as the townspeople used every means from imprisonment to violence to force her to close the school. Although she did eventually give up the school, her struggle made a significant contribution to the Abolitionists' movement. The vivid characterizations give the book appeal for general reading as well as making it an exceptionally good biography for young people.

NR Young, John Richard. Champion of the  
6-8 Cross 5. Westminster, 1955. 223p.  
\$2.75.

In this sequel to Arabian Cow Horse, Don Revere, having persuaded his father to breed Arabian horses on their ranch, must now prove that he was right by convincing the neighboring cowmen that these horses are as good as the better-known quarter horses for stock work. The task is made even more difficult by the fact that Don himself is unable to handle his Arabian stallion, Raffy, and is too stubborn to ask for help from Luis, the typical Mexican trainer with a magic touch with horses. In due time, of course, Don does ask for help and proceeds to win top honors in all of the foremost rodeos. Slight suspense is added in a hunt for a marauding jaguar that is killing stock on the ranch. A trite plot, and the characterizations lack depth or reality.

NR Zimmerman, Naoma. Baby Animals;  
2-4 illus. by Marge Opitz. Rand McNally,  
1955. 30p. (A Junior Elf Book). 15¢.

Brief text and coy, unrealistic pictures present an array of baby animals. Insubstantial, and without literary or artistic merit.